UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/PV.1415
29 July 1993

ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1415TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 7 July 1993, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

- Tribute to the memory of Ambassador Hamadi Khouini, Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations
- Statement by the Chairman
- Participation of non-members in the work of the Special Committee
- Requests for hearing

/...

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent, within one week of the date of this document, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

93-86251 4771V (E)

A/AC.109/PV.1415
1 (a-z)

- Reports of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance

  - Question of Pitcairn

  - Question of St. Helena

  - Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands

- Question of Guam

- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations

- Organization of work

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF AMBASSADOR HAMADI KHOUINI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TUNISIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

The CHAIRMAN: As members will recall, on 15 June 1993 we learned with sadness of the untimely passing of Ambassador Hamadi Khouini, the Permanent Representative of Tunisia to the United Nations.

On behalf of the members of the Special Committee and on my own behalf, I wish to request the representative of Tunisia to convey our heartfelt condolences to the Government of Tunisia and to the bereaved family.

I should like to invite members of the Special Committee to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Ambassador Khouini.

The members of the Special Committee observed a minute of silence.

Mr. MESSAOUD (Tunisia)(interpretation from French): On behalf of my delegation, I express sincere thanks for the condolences that you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Special Committee have kindly extended to us in connection with the passing of Hamadi Khouini on 15 June last. I can assure you that these condolences, which touch us deeply, will be transmitted to my Government, to the family of the deceased and to the members of the Tunisian delegation.

We pray that God will grant His mercy to His Excellency Mr. Khouini, so that he may rest in peace.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Tunisia for those words. At times like these, people and communities think of those who have passed. May their spirit help us to survive, in the interest and to the benefit of our people.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: I have the honour of welcoming members to this resumed session of the Special Committee.

Since our last plenary meeting, the members of the Committee have been quite busy. Our Subcommittee, chaired by His Excellency Mr. Amor Ardhaoui, Deputy Permanent Representative of Tunisia, met regularly and completed its work on time. The work that has been accomplished by the Subcommittee is now before the Committee for its consideration. The members of the Subcommittee worked hard and held long hours of consultations in order to present their conclusions and recommendations to us. I understand that the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee will introduce them during the course of tomorrow's meeting.

The Committee also met, when required, to discuss the organization of its work. Moreover, it established an open-ended Working Group to consider how to improve further the efficiency of the Committee's work. In addition, an informal open-ended drafting group was established to prepare the report of the Working Group. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Bangali of Sierra Leone, the informal open-ended drafting group met several times to prepare and finalize its report, which was adopted by the Committee on the recommendation of the open-ended Working Group. In this regard, I wish to thank Mr. Bangali of Sierra Leone, who chaired those meetings and finalized the report that was adopted by the Committee. The report is contained in document A/AC.109/L.1795.

A month ago, the second of the regional seminars provided for under the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism was held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in the Pacific region. More than one-third of the members of the Committee attended that seminar, which provided a venue for an exchange of valuable insights into the question of

(The Chairman)

decolonization in the Pacific region. The report of that seminar will be issued on 12 July, and at that time the Rapporteur will introduce it in the Committee.

Those are some of the activities that the Committee has undertaken in response to repeated suggestions that it should review its approach and method of work in order to improve its efficiency and thereby better serve the interests of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and assist them in the fulfilment of their aspirations. For the past two years, in order to keep abreast of the rapid changes and geopolitical developments in the world, the Committee has continued with a series of reforms that should enable it to assist the remaining small island Territories effectively and meet the challenges ahead.

As members are aware, during the past two years the Committee held two regional seminars - one in the Caribbean and one in the Pacific. The main objectives of those seminars were to review the political, economic and social conditions in the remaining Territories and ascertain the views and aspirations of their peoples as to their future status. As members will recall, the Committee has consistently reaffirmed that the views of the peoples concerned should be paramount in charting a new course of action for the Committee.

It will be recalled that these activities have been carried out by the Committee in keeping with the provisions of the Plan of Action for the International Decade, which was approved by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session in its resolution 46/181.

As regards the contents of some resolutions and decisions that have been the subject of criticism in the past, I understand that the members of the

(The Chairman)

regional groups concerned have been consulting with a view to making the necessary adjustments in those texts for wider acceptance. As members are aware, the Working Group's recommendations, which the Committee adopted, provide sufficient flexibility to allow for adjustments in those texts. I hope that in finalizing these resolutions and decisions members will avail themselves of this flexibility and act accordingly.

(The Chairman)

In this connection, the regional organizations concerned, which have always been our full partners in the decolonization process - the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) - are also being consulted on those issues. So are the administering Powers, whose cooperation should be strengthened or restored.

In addition, the Special Committee and its members should creatively look for fresh, new, effective ways to maximize their efforts in fulfilling the noble task of eradicating colonialism from the face of the Earth by the year 2000. These creative ways should not only be effective and constructive, but should also look beyond self-determination, ensuring that all citizens of the Territories concerned are empowered to enjoy greater opportunities and wider participation in the economic, social and political lives of their respective societies.

As we are about to begin the resumed session, I felt that it might be useful to share these views with members at the outset.

PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS IN THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform members that the delegation of Bolivia has requested to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee at this session. May I take it that the Committee accedes to the request?

It was so decided.

REQUESTS FOR HEARING

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw members' attention to a request for hearing, which has been circulated in aide-memoire 12/93, relating to the United States Virgin Islands.

(The Chairman)

If there are no objections, may I take it that the Committee agrees to accede to this request?

It was so decided.

REPORTS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

QUESTION OF PITCAIRN (A/AC.109/L.1799)

QUESTION OF ST. HELENA (A/AC.109/L.1800)

QUESTIONS OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, THE CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, TOKELAU, THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS (A/AC.109/L.1796)

The CHAIRMAN: I understand that the draft consolidated resolution in document A/AC.109/L.1796 will be available tomorrow, when the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee will introduce all the related reports.

QUESTION OF GUAM

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform members that I have received an indication from Miss Lourdes Pangelinan, representative of the Governor of Guam, of her wish to make a statement at this stage. Subject to members' consent, and in accordance with standing procedure, I suggest that the Committee invite her to make a statement.

It was so decided.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Miss Lourdes Pangelinan took a place at the Committee table.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on Miss Pangelinan.

Miss PANGELINAN: On behalf of Governor Joseph F. Ada, Governor of the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Guam, please allow me to extend our deepest appreciation for this opportunity to appear once again before this Committee to share information on the current situation of Guam.

(Miss Pangelinan)

My Government would like to express its sincere gratitude to you, Sir, to the Special Committee and to your Government for the excellent reception extended to my Government at the recent Pacific regional Seminar on decolonization, held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. The opportunity to present our views on Guam's political status development and the reception which these views were given by the Committee are highly regarded by my Government.

We strongly believe that the work of this Committee continues to be an important part of the internationally sanctioned decolonization process, and we continue to look forward to other efforts of the United Nations that will bring greater focus to the conditions faced by peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this regard, we are indeed heartened by the language of the draft resolution on Guam, in document A/AC.109/L.1796, which was adopted by the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, last week.

We are heartened not only because important enhancements have been made in this year's draft resolution, but also because it is evidence that Guam's concerns have been heard, deliberated upon and acted upon. We are most pleased that the Committee's approach has been even-handed and factual.

At this time, we would like to note that my Government continues to engage in constructive consultations with the administering Power as it relates to Guam's quest for self-government and self-determination. Although the administering Power has discontinued formal interactions with this Committee, my Government wishes to reiterate its belief that a continuing dialogue between the administering Power and this Committee will indeed result in greater understanding and a more constructive process, and we are hopeful that new levels of understanding can be reached in the near future.

(Miss Pangelinan)

As I mentioned earlier with respect to the draft resolution on Guam, my Government is extremely grateful that important international standards which apply to Non-Self-Governing Territories have, for the first time, been specifically addressed in the draft resolution on Guam. The Subcommittee's inclusion of references to the process of Guam's political status endeavours and the factual recounting of our interaction with the administering Power in this process have been handled fairly. We look forward to continuing to update the Committee on the progress of our interaction with the administering Power as political status discussions with the new Administration get under way.

We would also like to commend the Subcommittee for its treatment of the issue of immigration in the Guam draft resolution, which we believe raises the United Nations resolution on Guam to a new standard. As members are aware, the issue of immigration and the assimilation of the Chamorro people in their homeland has long been a matter of concern in Guam. Indeed, in the 1987 plebiscite on Guam's proposed Commonwealth Act, the people of Guam spoke directly to this matter and called for a change in the administering Power's immigration programme. The Committee's sensitivity to this concern and our appreciation of its acknowledgement of it cannot be overstated. This issue is certainly of primary concern in our political status endeavour.

Indeed, as members are well aware, the Guam Commonwealth Act calls for the exercise of self-determination for Guam - the decision on Guam's decolonized status - to be made by the indigenous people of Guam, the Chamorros. As we have noted in the past, it is unfortunate that the "self" in Guam's self-determination and decolonization exercise has to be defined.

(Miss Pangelinan)

However, given the impact of immigration on Guam, and consistent with international convention, the decision about Guam's decolonization must be defined in such a way as to recognize the sovereignty of the indigenous people over their homeland. The Committee's inclusion of a reference to these political rights of the Chamorro people is an additional element which would enhance the resolution on the question of Guam.

(Miss Pangelinan)

At this time I am pleased to note that there has been some progress regarding the status of the return of land held by the administering Power in Guam. Although actual title to land has not been transferred, and although there remains considerable work to be done by the administering Power on Guam's request for a reform of the manner in which federally held lands are returned, separate areas of recent movement are indeed noteworthy, and I should like to update the Committee on these developments.

First, earlier this month the administering Power's independent Base Relocation and Closure Commission (BRACC) overruled the counsel of military forces and instead agreed with the leadership on Guam, led by Governor Joseph Ada, by voting to recommend that the Naval Air Station (NAS) Agana, which is called Tiyan on Guam, be closed. This action, if approved by the United States Congress, will turn needed facilities and an airfield over to the local Government for the planned expansion of Guam's air transportation industry. The administering Power's Chief Executive has already concurred with the Base Relocation and Closure Commission's recommendations, and action will be taken by the administering Power's legislative organ within the next two months. This development, which was initiated by Guam's leaders in 1989, will indeed give a boost to Guam's growing economic development.

Secondly, a Congressional hearing on a measure to return to the people of Guam 3,200 acres of property deemed excess by the military since 1977 is scheduled for the end of July. Although our Government has been actively pursuing the return of these excess lands for many years now, we have renewed faith that this most recent development will succeed. Our Government seeks the use of these properties for the benefit of the people of Guam, from whom they were taken over four decades ago.

(Miss Pangelinan)

Finally, a "land summit," involving the people of Guam and the several agencies of the administering Power that hold an interest in Guam property, is scheduled be held in Guam by early next year. Those involved will examine the complexities of the land issue on Guam, focusing on the historic injustices surrounding the taking of land in our homeland. This forum will present Guam with another opportunity to pursue vigorously the manner in which property is returned to the people of Guam and to renew Guam's call for a bilateral process of evaluating property holdings.

In this regard, I humbly suggest that the Committee evaluate the results of these land-related issues. While most of the developments are unlikely to affect the thrust of the draft resolution, the Government of the Territory of Guam would be pleased to inform the Committee of progress in the closure of NAS Agana - the return of Tiyan - before the meeting of the Fourth Committee later this year. Moreover, since the first preambular paragraph of the portion of the draft resolution on Guam specifically addresses the discussions on the closure of NAS Agana it may be fitting for the Committee to note the finality of the decision on NAS Agana as it makes its recommendations to the Fourth Committee.

One final point on the draft resolution on Guam which we would like to note concerns paragraph 1. The use of the word "should" in this paragraph suggests that Guam's exercise of self-determination may be mitigated by the military interests of the administering Power. To place any such condition on the act of self-determination would be in conflict with all international standards on self-determination and, more directly, with paragraphs 2 and 4 of Part A of the draft resolution, which reaffirm the inalienable right of the people of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination. As we have noted in the past, "would" or "does" would perhaps be more appropriate.

(Miss Pangelinan)

Another issue arising out of part A of the draft resolution that we believe is noteworthy relates to paragraph 11 and Guam's recent experience with the position of the administering Power regarding our membership in the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Paragraph 11 of part A of the draft resolution calls on the administering Power to

> "promote cooperation between the ... territorial Governments and regional institutions",

a process which is clearly important for Non-Self-Governing Territories to engage in on their emergence from a colonial status.

We are indeed disappointed to note today that a policy of the administering Power to exclude Guam from full membership in SPREP was recently engaged. While all of our Pacific brothers and sisters, as well as metropolitan Governments with Pacific interests, supported the principle of full and equal participation of Territories in this regional organization through nine hours and 13 votes during a crucial SPREP meeting in Apia, Western Samoa, last month, the administering Power's policy, unfortunately, was to deny its Non-Self-Governing Territories full participation.

This recent action by the administering Power is indeed saddening in the light of the fact that the practice of full participation by all members of SPREP was adopted by the entire membership, including the administering Power, 10 years ago and has resulted in peoples of the Pacific having a direct voice in questions of their environment. Today that voice has been muted. Subsequently our Government had no choice but to withdraw from consideration so as not to delay further the creation of this important regional environmental body. We certainly look forward to the success of this important organization, which will safeguard the environment that we in the

(Miss Pangelinan)

Pacific all share. However, we cannot accept participation on the only terms acceptable under the administering Power's existing policy. We believe that the position of the administering Power is too rigid, particularly since its only claim to participation in the organization is based on the status of its Pacific Territories.

We trust that our reporting on some of the existing conditions affecting Guam is of assistance to the Committee in considering the draft resolution. We are gratified to note the enhancement of the draft resolution over previous year's resolutions. Additionally, we are pleased to report progress with respect to possibilities which appear to be opening up for the return of Guam property held by the administering Power. However, we are disappointed to note an unnecessary rigidity that marks some elements of the administering Power's actions, and we believe that more enlightened approaches are necessary.

In closing, we should again like to express our sincere appreciation to you, Sir, and the other members of the Special Committee for your interest in, and attention to, the issues which relate to our emergence beyond colonial status. Dankolu na Si Yu'os Ma'ase - thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Miss Pangelinan for the information she has furnished to the Committee. If no member of the Committee wishes to make any comments or ask any questions relating to her statement, I shall invite her to withdraw.

Miss Pangelinan withdrew.

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/AC.109/1160 and L.1798)

The CHAIRMAN: In connection with this item, I wish to draw members' attention to the report prepared by the Secretary-General, contained in document A/AC.109/1160. Members also have before them in document A/AC.109/L.1798 a draft resolution on the question, prepared by the Chairman.

Since there are no comments at this time, the Committee will continue consideration of the item at its next meeting with a view to taking action on the draft resolution.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: Before adjourning, so as to facilitate our work and as indicated in aide-mémoire 9/93 of 19 May 1993 concerning the provisional schedule of meetings, I wish to remind those members wishing to take part in the debates relating to foreign economic interests, military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in the Territories and the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies that they should contact the Secretariat upon the adjournment of this meeting.

In order to facilitate the work of the Committee and to enable the Rapporteur to prepare and submit by 2 August 1993 the Committee's report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, every effort should be made to conclude most of the items on the agenda within the next two weeks. However, because some of the items are also considered in other forums, for example, the Economic and Social Council and in regional organizations, it would be advisable for the Committee to wait for the outcome of those discussions before taking decisions or action on those items. This would imply that the Committee may have to hold one or two meetings in the latter part of August to take action on those items. In addition, we shall of course

(The Chairman)

adjust our programme as need be, depending on the availability of the necessary documentation.

In order to make the best use of the servicing resources allocated to the Committee for the session, I wish to appeal to members to make every effort to be on time at our meetings and to be prepared to speak on the day that they are on the list to speak.

The programme for the next two weeks is relatively heavy and includes the hearing of petitioners on a number of Territories. The Committee will also have to take action on a number of draft decisions during the same period. I would therefore appeal to all members to be prepared, so that we can make maximum use of the time and resources available to us.

In respect of the draft decisions relating to foreign economic interests, military activities and arrangements, and the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies, I wish to recall that at our informal drafting group of the open-ended Working Group suggestions were made that, instead of the Bureau's being charged with drafting the texts, all members should participate on an informal basis. As you are aware, at the 1414th meeting, on 28 May, in order to facilitate the drafting of those resolutions and decisions, I urged members to consult with their regional groups. It is my understanding that members have been consulting in that regard, and I hope that the Committee will finalize those drafts without delay. I would therefore suggest that members wishing to participate in the informal drafting group should be prepared to do so as soon as possible, and should contact the Secretariat.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/PV.1416
29 July 1993

ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1416TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 8 July 1993, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

- Reports of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance
  - Question of Pitcairn
  - Question of St. Helena
  - Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands
  - Question of dissemination of information on decolonization

/...

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent, within one week of the date of this document, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

93-86263 4774V (E)

A/AC.109/PV.1416
1 (a-z)

- Question of the United States Virgin Islands

  Hearing of the representative of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands

- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations

- Programme of work

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

REPORTS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

QUESTION OF PITCAIRN (A/AC.109/L.1799)

QUESTION OF ST. HELENA (A/AC.109/L.1800)

QUESTIONS OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS AND UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS (A/AC.109/L.1796)

QUESTION OF DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION (A/AC.109/L.1797)

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, who will introduce that Subcommittee's reports.

Mr. LOTFI HORMOZABADI (Islamic Republic of Iran), Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance: I have the honour, in my capacity as Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, to introduce to the Special Committee the reports of the Subcommittee on the agenda items allocated to it during the current session. The reports are as follows.

First, the report of the Subcommittee on the Territory of Pitcairn is contained in document A/AC.109/L.1799. The Subcommittee considered this Territory on 29 April, 4 May and 29 June 1993. On 29 June 1993 it adopted by consensus a draft decision on the Territory, which is inscribed in section C of the document.

Secondly, the report of the Subcommittee on the question of St. Helena is contained in document A/AC.109/L.1800. The Subcommittee considered this Territory on 1 and 29 June 1993 and adopted by consensus a draft decision on the Territory on 29 June 1993. In this regard, one delegation expressed a reservation.

(Mr. Lotfi Hormozabadi,
Islamic Republic of Iran)

Thirdly, the report on the question of dissemination of information on decolonization is contained in document A/AC.109/L.1797. This report has been divided into an introduction and four sections. Section I covers the consultations with the representative of the Department of Public Information; section II is allocated to the consultations with the representative of the Department of Political Affairs; section III covers the issue of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights; and section IV covers the conclusions and recommendations.

The question of dissemination of information on decolonization was considered by the Subcommittee on 11, 13, 25 and 27 May 1993; the Subcommittee adopted the report by consensus.

Fourthly, the report on the questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands is in document A/AC.109/L.1796. The text of the consolidated draft resolution on all those Territories is contained in part A of the draft consolidated resolution in that document, and part B contains separate draft resolutions on each of them. The Subcommittee adopted the report on 29 June 1993 by consensus.

These conclusions and recommendations were achieved during consultations that took place at a number of formal and informal meetings. I hope that the Special Committee of 24 will adopt the reports.

QUESTION OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform members that I have received a request from Mr. Carlyle Corbin, representative of the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, to make a statement at this stage. Subject to members' consent and in accordance with standing procedure, I suggest that the Committee invite him to make a statement.

It was so decided.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Corbin took a place at the Committee table.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on Mr. Corbin to address the Committee.

Mr. CORBIN: On behalf of Governor Alexander A. Farrelly of the United States Virgin Islands, I appreciate this opportunity to present our Government's statement to the Committee.

We have had an opportunity to review the report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, and in particular the consolidated text, and congratulate the Subcommittee, its Bureau and, in particular, the Rapporteur, who has just introduced the report of the activities of the Subcommittee. At this stage, we would wish to make just a few comments on the report.

My Government generally endorses the language of the preambular part of the general section of the consolidated draft resolution. However, we feel that its final paragraph could be strengthened. That paragraph recalls the conclusions and recommendations adopted and the positions taken by the territorial Governments at the United Nations regional seminar on decolonization. However, simply recalling those recommendations and the positions of the peoples of the Territories concerned does not facilitate action.

(Mr. Corbin)

Since the Committee adopts the reports of these seminars, and therefore adopts their conclusions and recommendations, it would seem that some attempt should be made to integrate these key recommendations into the report of the Special Committee if the draft resolution is to be reflective of the concerns expressed by the people themselves. Alternatively, the Committee may wish to consider approving a separate draft resolution outlining these seminar recommendations.

In this vein, we recall a key recommendation of the decolonization seminar held in Grenada last December, and referred to in our statement to the Subcommittee this year. This recommendation called for the establishment of a mechanism to represent the interests and to articulate the needs of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in the form of an expert group comprised of representatives of these Territories to advise the Special Committee and the Secretary-General on the most effective way to carry out the mandate of the United Nations to complete the decolonization process by the end of the century. Who else but the people themselves should know how this process should proceed?

The proposal for an expert group was endorsed by the representatives of the Pacific Non-Self-Governing Territories at the Pacific regional seminar, held in Papua New Guinea last month, and was also included as a recommendation in the report of that seminar. Yes, an expert group is an innovative idea, not necessarily consistent with the ordinary order of business, and perhaps, as a result, is one that seems not to have been seriously considered by the Committee so far.

When this expert-group idea was proposed to the Working Group of the Subcommittee earlier this year, for example, it was not approved, but is not

(Mr. Corbin)

innovation required if we are successfully to carry out the mandate to eradicate colonialism by the year 2000? My Government would argue that without new measures of this nature, if we merely continue to approve resolutions, with no mechanisms to monitor their implementation, we will not meet our goal by the year 2000. We therefore call once again for this expert group to be considered. This could be achieved by amending the Plan of Action of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and could be funded from existing budgetary resources.

Most of the Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island developing countries. The work of the Subcommittee and the situation of the small Territories should now be elevated to the level of the Special Committee, where we are currently given only a few short days of consideration.

Consideration should also be given to the scheduling of the meetings of the Special Committee. Currently, the Caribbean Community Heads of Government are meeting in the Bahamas; four of the seven Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories are represented there and therefore cannot be here at these few days of the Special Committee's session.

My Government generally endorses the language of the operative paragraphs of the general part of the consolidated draft resolution, and wishes to commend the Subcommittee for its continued emphasis on relevant issues in our Territories. We note, however, that the final paragraph, as in the case of last year's consolidated resolution, calls for a report to the General Assembly on

"the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination".

(Mr. Corbin)

Have these reports been prepared? We would be most interested in knowing which "suitable steps" are being recommended for us, but perhaps the absence of the reports illustrates that the Special Committee may not be in the best position to prepare them. Should not such reports be prepared by experts from the Territories themselves?

Mr. Chairman, permit me a few comments on the United States Virgin Islands section of the report. We again commend the Subcommittee on the detail and relevance of this section, which identifies some of the key issues facing the United States Virgin Islands, including the insurance crisis, the long-standing concern over the return of Water Island to the territorial Government, steps taken by our Government to acquire St. Thomas Harbour, the need for the Territory to widen its participation in regional organizations and the need for budgetary resources for this purpose.

A few updates on the United States Virgin Islands draft resolution are in order.

(Mr. Corbin)

We note that the draft resolution accurately reflects the consultative nature of the referendum and the concerns in the Territory over voter residency requirements, the availability of information and the multiplicity of the political options.

Regarding the non-binding nature of the political status referendum scheduled for September this year, it is to be emphasized that, since there is no commitment on the part of the administering Power to accept the results, some in our Territory have minimized the referendum's importance. We are concerned that this may affect voter participation.

There is also the question of the cost of the referendum. Due to the severe budgetary constraints on our Government - which is financing 100 per cent of the referendum process - our Status Commission has had to request our Legislature to change the four referendum dates from regular election dates, which are usually holidays, to days that are not holidays. This proposal was made because four electoral holidays were considered too costly in terms of lost time of Government workers.

This is, however, another factor that could potentially impact voter turnout. Relevant United Nations resolutions can be recalled that ask for support for the Territory to facilitate political education programmes. Such assistance has never been provided, however, and our Government has had to finance the process from our limited local resources, which have proved insufficient. Therefore, such cost-saving measures had to be recommended, a situation that could cause a further negative impact on the number of people who vote.

It is also our custom to utilize the neighbourhood schools to conduct elections. But since the proposal calls for the referendums to be conducted

(Mr. Corbin)

on regular business days, the school buildings would not be available, since the students would be using them. Therefore, alternative polling sites would have to be identified - an additional factor that could erode voter participation, since our people are accustomed to the school buildings as the traditional polling places.

As this is the first such political status referendum in our history, these are issues that we have not had to deal with before. A visiting mission to observe these and other aspects of the political education process would have been able to advise us. But, as the Committee is aware, my Government's request for a visiting mission was not approved. It is our hope that the new Government of the administering Power will understand our dilemma and permit a visiting mission to come to the Territory in advance of our referendum process. The United Nations experience in referendums world wide would prove invaluable to us. Missions of the Trusteeship Council are routinely sent to Palau. Is our political development not considered as important?

The United States Virgin Islands draft resolution also refers to concerns in the Territory regarding the length of the residency requirement for voting in the referendum - yet another issue that could significantly affect the legitimacy of the referendum.

Our Government has made several requests to this Committee over the years for information on voter residency requirements in other Non-Self-Governing Territories under the Committee's purview. In the context of this request, our Government has had to initiate an analysis, which has not been completed because of a lack of resources.

(Mr. Corbin)

One of the points that we have attempted to clarify in this connection is the applicability of the Declaration on decolonization to our Territory, since the General Assembly routinely confirms that this Declaration applies to us. This is particularly relevant when one examines the transfer-of-powers doctrine in the Declaration. Has such a transfer taken place in other Territories in advance of an act of self-determination? How was it carried out? These continue to be lingering concerns in our community. We again ask the United Nations to assist us in our analysis of this issue if our referendum process is ever to be successful.

We appreciate the call in the consolidated text for the transfer of Water Island, the fourth largest of the Virgin Islands, to the territorial Government. The reuniting of all the islands of our Territory is long overdue. We are sure that this Committee would recognize that the availability of land is of critical importance to our Territory, particularly when one recalls that the third most densely populated country in all of Latin America and the Caribbean is the United States Virgin Islands. We applaud the Committee's courage in approving this section and trust that the Fourth Committee will concur with this necessary action.

We are also pleased with the call for assistance from all financial organizations of the United Nations system in the acquisition of the St. Thomas Harbour, in the capital of the Territory. In this regard, we hereby report that our Government, through a series of internal financial mechanisms, completed several weeks ago the acquisition of the stock of the company that previously owned the harbour, in the amount of $48 million. We appreciate the expression of support on this matter as contained in the report

(Mr. Corbin)

of the Subcommittee, and request that the Special Committee, in consultation with the territorial Government, identify the relevant offices of the United Nations system where the support called for can be made available to us.

The draft resolution also calls for the participation of our Territory in regional and other international organizations, but, as is also indicated, we have been unable, for financial reasons, to participate in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization as observers. In fact, this matter of resources has become a major impediment to Non-Self-Governing Territory participation in international activities, in particular those of the United Nations.

After obtaining observer status in many conferences and other activities of the United Nations, few of our Governments are able to attend without the provision of external resources. It is our view, therefore, that under the mandate of the agenda item "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international organizations associated with the United Nations," the Special Committee could assist our Territories in identifying the resources from the United Nations system so that we can participate in programmes and activities of the system that become available to us. Otherwise, the adoption of resolutions on this question is not translated into action.

In this connection, the Ministers of the Caribbean Cooperation and Development Committee adopted a resolution at its fourteenth session, held in St. George's, Grenada, in December 1992, calling for consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee with the aim of assisting the Non-Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean in identifying resources to

(Mr. Corbin)

continue their ongoing examination of United Nations programmes and activities. The work already under way by this regional group has assisted Non-Self-Governing Territories in both the Caribbean and the Pacific in obtaining observer status in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held last year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States - the regional technical meeting for the Pacific was held in May in Vanuatu, and the Caribbean regional technical meeting is scheduled for next week in Trinidad and Tobago; and the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development.

(Mr. Corbin)

Our Territories have now been granted, or are in the process of securing, observer status for the latter two organizations and activities of the system, and we would appreciated any assistance this Committee could provide with regard to ensuring maximum participation by our Territories in those activities.

In that regard, the consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee called for in the resolution adopted by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee should be held at the earliest possible time so as to ensure that the work of our regional group, in consultation with our counterpart Pacific groups, can continue to the benefit of all Non-Self-Governing Territories under the review of the Special Committee.

In conclusion, we wish once again to thank you personally, Mr. Chairman, for your very strong efforts in the process of the self-determination of our Territories.

We are available to answer any questions members may have.

The CHAIRMAN: It appears that no member of the Special Committee wishes to make comments or put questions to Mr. Corbin. On behalf of the Special Committee I wish to thank Mr. Corbin for the information he has presented to the Special Committee. The views he expressed will be noted and taken into account in connection with the consideration of the relevant draft resolutions and decisions.

Mr. Corbin withdrew.

The CHAIRMAN: The Special Committee will now take up the various reports of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance.

(The Chairman)

We turn first to the report relating to Pitcairn (A/AC.109/L.1799). It appears that there are no comments at this stage. I suggest that members study the document; the Committee will continue consideration of the report at the next meeting with a view to taking action on it.

The Committee will next take up the report relating to St. Helena (A/AC.109/L.1800). It appears that there are no comments at this stage. The Committee will continue consideration of the report at the next meeting with a view to taking action on it.

The Committee will next take up the report relating to the 10 Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/L.1796). It appears that there are no comments at this stage. The Committee will continue consideration of the report at its next meeting with a view to taking action on it.

The Committee will next take up the report relating to the question of dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/L.1797). It appears that there are no comments at this stage. The Committee will continue consideration of the report at the next meeting with a view to taking action on it.

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/AC.109/1160 AND A/AC.109/L.1798)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw the attention of members to the report of the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/1160). Members also have before them document A/AC.109/L.1798, which contains the text of a draft resolution on this question, prepared by the Chairman.

(The Chairman)

It appears that there are no comments at this stage. The Committee will continue consideration of this item at the next meeting with a view to taking action on the draft resolution.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: The next meeting will be held on Monday, 12 July, at 10 a.m., when the Rapporteur of the Pacific Regional Seminar will introduce the report of the Seminar.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/PV.1417
29 July 1993

ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1417th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 12 July 1993, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea)

- Report of the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories held within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, at Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, from 8 to 10 June 1993 (A/AC.109/1159)

- Reports of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (continued)

Question of Pitcairn (A/AC.109/L.1799)

/...

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent, within one week of the date of this document, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

93-86287 4786V (E)

A/AC.109/PV.1417
1 (a-z)

Question of St. Helena (A/AC.109/L.1800)

Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands (A/AC.109/L.1796)

Question of dissemination of information on decolonization (A/AC.109/L.1797)

- Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/1160 and L.1798) (continued)

- Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/1162 and A/AC.109/L.1801 and L.1802)

- Activities of those foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (A/AC.109/1153, 1155-1158)

- Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/AC.109/1144, 1149 and 1151)

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

- Draft report of the Special Committee

- Organization of work

The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

REPORT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR TO REVIEW THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE SMALL ISLAND NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES HELD WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM, AT PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, FROM 8 TO 10 JUNE 1993 (A/AC.109/1159)

The CHAIRMAN: I call on Mr. Eugene Pursoo, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations, the Rapporteur of the Seminar, to introduce the report.

Mr. PURSOO (Grenada), Rapporteur of the Seminar: I have the honour to introduce the report (A/AC.109/1159) of the Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, which was adopted on 10 June 1993. This was the second Seminar held within the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Information on the legislative mandate for the convening of the Seminar, its objectives and the themes which formed the basis of discussions is provided in the report's introduction.

The Special Committee was represented at the Seminar by Ambassador Renagi Renagi Lohia of Papua New Guinea, who chaired the proceedings, as well as by representatives of Chile, the Czech Republic, Fiji, Indonesia, Mali, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, and by my own delegation.

The important opening statement by the Chairman is summarized in paragraphs 15 to 23 in section II of the report.

(Mr. Pursoo, Rapporteur of the Seminar)

At the opening meeting, participants were also honoured to hear an address by The Honourable John R. Kaputin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Papua New Guinea, the text of which is annexed to the report. At the closing meeting, a message from The Right Honourable Palas Wingti, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, was read out by Mr. Maimu Raha-Nou, Deputy Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador of Papua New Guinea to the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. The Prime Minister's message too is annexed to the report.

A full list of participants is contained in annex III of the report.

In keeping with the Special Committee's position, as represented in the approved guidelines and rules of procedure for the Seminar, that the views of the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should be given pre-eminence, the important statements delivered by those representatives are summarized in section II (B) of the report.

In their statements, those representatives addressed a number of issues of relevance to the Special Committee and its work, including the questions of self-government, self-determination, independence and the need for political-education programmes. Participants from the Territories also spoke of the importance to the dependencies of education and human resources development, as well as the impact of immigration and emigration on the process of self-determination and the role of the expatriate workforce in the Territories.

Section III of the report contains a summary of discussions that took place at the Seminar; it covers three broad topics: political development, economic and social development, and environment and development. The views expressed at the Seminar on those topics will, I am sure, be of value to all

(Mr. Pursoo, Rapporteur of the Seminar)

members. Beyond reaffirming the principles enshrined in the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Seminar participants made constructive suggestions and various proposals that will assist the Committee in its consideration of the problems of the various Non-Self-Governing Territories.

In addition to the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories which the Committee was able to hear at first hand, the Seminar also provided the opportunity to listen to representatives of non-governmental organizations and special guests.

I should like to highlight some of the views and concerns expressed by the participants at the Seminar. It will be noted from the report of the Seminar that the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories all expressed appreciation for the safeguard of their right to exercise fully their right to self-determination within their determined time-frame. They also indicated the specific situations in each Territory which call for careful consideration of the various options available to them on the basis of the concrete problems that relate to their political experience and economic conditions.

The summary of discussions also covered, among other things, a broad spectrum of issues, including the provision of educational and technical skills and development assistance; the impact of the tourist industry on the culture of the Territories and on the availability of land for their peoples; the problem of in-migration of settlers and other migrants into the Territories; the problem of illicit drug trafficking; protection of the environment and sustainable development; access by the Territories to programmes and activities of the United Nations; and participation by their

(Mr. Pursoo, Rapporteur of the Seminar)

representatives in the work of the United Nations. It was also noted that the Special Committee should intensify its dissemination of information on decolonization directly to the Territories and that they in turn should provide up-to-date information, on a regular basis, on the situation in the dependencies and on the peoples concerned.

Those are some of the areas the Seminar dealt with. I commend the report for serious consideration by the Special Committee.

In conclusion, I should like to take this opportunity to express once again my deep appreciation to the Government of Papua New Guinea for its warm hospitality and effective assistance in making possible the successful conclusion of the Seminar. Owing to its cooperation and unfailing assistance, we were able to conduct our deliberations in the most pleasant and effective conditions. I wish also to place on record my appreciation for the close cooperation extended to me by participating members of the Seminar, which facilitated my task as Rapporteur. I wish also to thank His Excellency Ratu Manasa K. Seniloli, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations.

I wish in addition to thank all the members of the Secretariat who worked long hours to assist me.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. RIBEIRO-TELLES (Portugal): I listened carefully to the statement of the Permanent Representative of Grenada in which he presented the report of the Seminar. I also read very carefully the report on the Seminar held at Port Moresby. I must say that I was very surprised. I was very surprised because that report contains no reference to the question of East Timor. That question was debated at the Port Moresby Seminar. The Ambassador

(Mr. Ribeiro-Telles, Portugal)

of Portugal to Australia was present; a number of other participants spoke of the situation in East Timor.

When I saw section II (B), which contains a summary of statements by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories, I saw American Samoa; I saw Guam; I saw Tokelau; I saw New Caledonia; but I did not see one single reference to the question of East Timor, which, as I understand it, was the subject of lengthy discussion at the Seminar.

I think that is very regrettable that, when the Special Committee is rightfully calling for cooperation by the administering Powers, there should be not a single reference to the statement made by our Ambassador in his capacity as representative of the administering Power of East Timor.

I hope the Chairman can clarify this situation.

The CHAIRMAN: The remarks just made by the representative of Portugal have been noted.

Are there further comments? I call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. RIBEIRO-TELLES (Portugal): I am sorry to importune you, Mr. Chairman, but I would like an explanation concerning the omission from this report of the question of East Timor.

The CHAIRMAN: In response to the question put by the representative of Portugal, may I say that, in line with the decisions of this Committee in relation to the tripartite consultations that are under way between the Government of Portugal, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Secretary-General, and in line with the procedure that was followed at a similar seminar in the region, held in Vanuatu, the Committee decided not to

(The Chairman)

take any substantive actior or decision on East Timor, even though, as the representative of Portugal notes, there was a debate on the question of East Timor at the Port Moresby Seminar. This was to provide a conducive climate in which the tripartite consultations could proceed without too much difficulty.

I call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. RIBEIRO-TELLES (Portugal): We are not dicussing the report of the Seminar in Vanuatu; we are discussing the report of the Seminar in Port Moresby. I am not asking for any concrete input to the substance of the question. I only ask that a statement of fact be inserted in this report concerning the statements made by the representative of Portugal and other representatives at the Seminar in Port Moresby. I do not feel that this could in any way jeopardize the tripartite talks being held with the Secretary-General. I only ask that there be a report of the statements made by representatives of Member States or other participants on the question of East Timor.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any member of the Committee who participated in the Seminar wish to make any remarks on the statement made by the representative of Portugal?

Mr. PURSOO (Grenada), Rapporteur of the Seminar: As I recall it, the question of the discussion on East Timor was considered at one time. Because of its contentious nature, we suspended the Drafting Committee and called a special session of the Committee to discuss the matter.

At that point, I believe, we thought we had an agreement on a statement that would satisfy Indonesia and Portugal. I recall being told by members of the Committee at a later point - to my surprise, of course - that Portugal preferred to have nothing recorded rather than have the statement that was agreed on by the Committee. It was surprising to me, but it seemed to me at that point that Portugal itself said it would prefer to have nothing recorded, and the Committee simply accepted that.

To my recollection, that is why there is nothing there, because the Committee understood that both Portugal and Indonesia said that they would

(Mr. Pursoo, Rapporteur of the Seminar)

prefer nothing rather than have something that did not satisfy them. It was left at that. I hope this has cleared the matter up.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to confirm the situation as described by the representative of Grenada: Portugal withdrew its submission to the Committee after very long and serious consultations among the members of the Committee.

I call on the representative of Portugal.

Mr. RIBEIRO-TELLES (Portugal): The Permanent Representative of Grenada said he was very surprised by the situation. I wish to read out to all the members of the Special Committee the proposed reference in this regard:

> "Views were also expressed by some administering Powers and others who participated in the Seminar on the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories."

That does not contain any reference to the question of East Timor, so of course it was unacceptable to us. But my point today concerns part B of section II of the report, on page 8, which is a summary of statements made at the Seminar by some representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. There is not a single reference to the statements made in this regard by the representative of Portugal and others at the Seminar.

The CHAIRMAN: Is the Committee in a position to adopt the report?

Mrs. KING-ROUSSEAU (Trinidad and Tobago): My delegation has only just received the report and would like an opportunity to review it.

The CHAIRMAN: On the basis of that request, the Committee at this point will take note of the report, but will continue its consideration and take action on it at its next meeting. If I hear no objection, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

REPORTS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES, PETITIONS, INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE (continued)

QUESTION OF PITCAIRN (A/AC.109/L.1799)

QUESTION OF ST. HELENA (A/AC.109/L.1800)

QUESTIONS OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS (A/AC.109/L.1796)

QUESTION OF DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION (A/AC.109/L.1797)

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will take action on these Subcommittee reports at a later stage.

INFORMATION FROM NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES TRANSMITTED UNDER ARTICLE 73 e OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/AC.109/1160 and L.1798) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no comments concerning this item, may I take it that the Committee is prepared to adopt draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1798, prepared by the Chairman on the question, without a vote?

The draft resolution was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/1162 and A/AC.109/L.1801 and L.1802)

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to draw members' attention to the report prepared by the Chairman, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1801, giving an account of the consultations held with representatives of the administering Powers concerned. Members also have before them in document A/AC.109/L.1802 a draft resolution on the item.

During my consultations, I informed the representatives of the administering Powers that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to the

(The Chairman)

Non-Self-Governing Territories as a means of securing first-hand information on those Territories. In that regard, I wish to express the Committee's appreciation to the Government of New Zealand for having extended an invitation to the Committee to send a visiting mission to Tokelau early in 1994. The invitation has been circulated in document A/AC.109/1162.

(The Chairman)

If no member wishes to speak on the item, may I take it that the Committee is prepared to adopt draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1802 without a vote?

Draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1802 was adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: In respect of the invitation extended by the Government of New Zealand contained in document A/AC.109/1162, may I take it that the Special Committee accepts the invitation?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the Special Committee and on my own behalf, I wish to take this opportunity to express deep appreciation of the continuing cooperation of the Government of New Zealand in the related work of the Special Committee.

The Committee has thus concluded its consideration of this item.

ACTIVITIES OF THOSE FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH IMPEDE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (A/AC.109/1153, 1155-1158)

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (A/AC.109/1144, 1149 and 1151)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

The CHAIRMAN: With regard to these items, members have before them the various working papers prepared by the Secretariat. In respect of the item on specialized agencies, the reports of the Secretary-General and the President of the Economic and Social Council should be published soon.

It appears that no member wishes to speak in the general debate on any of these items.

(The Chairman)

I wish to urge members to inscribe their names on the list of speakers in the general debate and would suggest that the list be closed at 6 p.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, 13 July.

I would also urge members to continue their consultations in respect of the draft decisions still pending on these three items. I have received from only one member an indication of interest in participating in the informal drafting group. Any other members who are interested should contact the Secretariat as soon as possible, as time is of the essence.

DRAFT REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE

The CHAIRMAN: In order to facilitate the submission in good time of the Committee's report to the General Assembly, I would suggest that, in keeping with the practice adopted by the Committee at previous sessions, the Rapporteur be requested to prepare and submit directly to the Assembly the various chapters of the report covering the items on which the Committee has concluded consideration. If there is no objection, I shall take it that the Committee agrees to follow that time-honoured practice.

It was so decided.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to inform members that for the rest of this week we have scheduled two meetings a day. At our meeting tomorrow morning we shall begin consideration of the question of East Timor. As members will have seen in aide-mémoire 13/93, the Committee has received to date 23 requests for hearing. I would therefore urge all delegations to be on time so that we may begin our meetings promptly.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.